High mortality rate among children in the country

2543. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the latest estimates prepared by the United Nations Children Education Fund (UNICEF), India is ranked 54th among the countries having high mortality rate among the children aged less than five;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the mortality rate is high in the rural areas; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps Government are planning to take to tackle the basic health problem faced by the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. India is ranked 54th based on the Under five Mortality Rate for 2000 (Source: State of the World's Children Report 2003).

(b) The main reasons are pre-maturity (23 per cent), acute respiratory infections (25 per cent), Diarrohea (5 per cent), Anaemia (4 per cent) and other (39 per cent). Malnutrition is a precipitating factor in 50 per cent of these child deaths.

(c) Yes, Sir. Total Infant Mortality Rate 68. Rural: 74, Urban: 43 (Source: Sample Registration Survey of Registrar General of India 2001).

(d) Steps taken are:—

(i) Planning to accelerate implementation of interventions like quality ANC, trained birth attendance, newborn care, immunization and management of acute respiratory infections and diarrohea cases at community level through RCH II Project. Apart from the National and State Governments, partner agencies, like UNICEF, UNEPA World Bank and others support such interventions.

(ii) Launching Newborn care with technical support from the Neo Natalogy Forum (NNF) and UNICEF.

(iii) Launching Integrated Management of New Born and Childhood Illness (IMNCI) in BDCS districts with technical support from the AIIMS, UNICEF and WHO

(iv) Creating provisions for safe sources of drinking water, safe disposal of human excreta and other sanitary practices under the Child Environmental Sanitation.

Adulteration in edible items

2544. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the growing incidents of adulteration in edible items in the country;

(b) if so, the States where such incidents are on the increase;

(c) whether any anti-adulteration drive is being launched in those States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) The Food (Health) Authorities of the States/U.T.s., are responsible for the implementation of the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and Rules made thereunder in the country.

The Food (Health) Authorities are also advised from time to time, to keep a strict vigil to check adulteration in their States/ UTs.

Proposal of Government of Maharashtra seeking world bank assistance

2545. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a project proposal seeking World Bank assistance of Rs. 550 crores for renovation, procurement of essential equipments and teaching tools for medical colleges and attached hospitals in